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PATENT
Attorney Docket No. 219482
DHHS Reference No. E-144-96/2

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Nelson et al.

Application No. 09/242,202

Filed: November 01, 1999

For: A NOVEL VECTOR FOR
POLYNUCLEOTIDE VACCINES

Art Unit: 1632

Examiner: Li, Qian J.

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OFFICE OF PETITIONS

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Box SEQUENCE
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 2327
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated February 13, 2002, please enter the following amendments and consider the following remarks.

AMENDMENTS

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

At page 1, line 3, please insert the following paragraph:

Priority

This application is the national phase of international application no. PCT/US97/14306, filed August 14, 1997, and claims the benefit of provisional application no. 60/023,931 filed August 14, 1996.

Please replace the paragraph from page 18, line 32, to page 19, line 18, with the following:

In one embodiment of the present invention the polynucleotide vector comprises pITL as schematically depicted in Figure 1. cDNA encoding one or more target antigen(s) or antigenic epitopes thereof may be ligated into the cloning site or sequence acceptance site depicted in Figure 1. The sequence acceptance site is designed to directionally accept sequence specific products from rtPCR based cloning strategies via unique sites within an interrupted palindrome recognition sequence for a restriction endonuclease which is

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03 FC:1202 522.00 CH